

OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC)
Meeting Summary
August 10, 2015
9-10:30 AM EST, Conference Call

Sue Dunn, RN, BSN, MBA, Chair
Jennifer Milton, BSN, CCTC, MBA, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on [November 11, 2013] are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>.

Committee Projects

1. Proposal to Increase Committee Terms to Three Years

This project was part of the slate of public comment proposals reviewed by the POC at this meeting and the POC voted unanimously to make the recommendation to the Executive Committee to send this out for public comment beginning August 14, 2015.]

Review of Public Comment Proposals

2. August 2015 Public Comment Proposal Review

The primary purpose of this call was the review and discussion of the 12 committee public comment proposals, and to vote on a recommendation to the Executive Committee about these proposals' readiness for public comment. The committee members reviewed the proposals before the meeting and completed a survey about each of the proposals to rate them and ensure that they went through the OPTN policy development process. Based on this review and the survey results, the proposals were identified as consent or discuss as follows:

Consent Items:

- Pediatric Lung Allocation Policy Review (Thoracic)
- Facilitated Pancreas Allocation (Pancreas)
- SLK Allocation Policy (Kidney)
- Data Release Policies (DAC)
- Annual Updates to Equivalency Tables (Histocompatibility)
- Changes to Transplant Program Key Personnel Procurement Requirements (MPSC)

Discussion Items

- Pediatric Transplantation Training and Experience Considerations in the Bylaws (Pediatric)
The committee Chair noted that there was one "no" vote for this proposal but there was no discussion and the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that this proposal proceed to public comment.
- Revising KPD Priority Points (KPD)
One of the committee members who voted "no" for this explained her reasoning but said that she ultimately supported sending this to public comment. She noted that she was torn by this proposal as she is current chair of the KPD workgroup. She said she supports the changes but was not sure this belongs in a policy

since KPD is dynamic and will need a series of changes to achieve the desired outcomes of increasing transplants. In other words, there will need to be multiple changes of this proposal over time which will slow down the progress of the KPD program. Having said that, she noted that it is an improvement and step forward from the current priority points and so we should consider moving forward with this proposal and then consider moving these types of changes into an operational status so real time changes can be made as needed within certain guidelines that would need to be developed.

Another committee member noted that the cost/benefit analysis for all of these projects was missing and believed that this was part of the review process. The policy department director assured the committee that this would be updated in each of the proposals before they went out for public comment. The committee then voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that this proposal proceed to public comment.

- **Clarify Status of Therapeutic Donors (Living Donor)**
This proposal had one “no” vote. The score was a little lower than the others. The living donor Vice Chair commented that the object of this proposal was to have streamlined policy in place for these types of donors that would enable them to not be treated as living donors and have to meet all the requirements and follow up required for living donors. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that this proposal proceed to public comment.
- **Foreign Board Certification (MPSC)**
This proposal had one “no” vote and one no response. This proposal clarifies the requirements for those physicians who have foreign board certification, particularly those trained in Canada. The MPSC Vice Chair reported that the criteria being added for the foreign graduates who are not Canadian or American board certified are parallel to what is required of the American or Canadian board certifications. This proposal had very little discussion and the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that this proposal proceed to public comment.
- **Limit Paper Documentation Required to be Included with Organ Packaging (OPO)**
This proposal had two “no” votes and the POC Chair asked if the OPO committee Chair who was on the call had any comments. Addressing the comments that this proposal is not in alignment with CMS requirements, the OPO Chair noted that he is working closely with CMS to try to come into alignment with their policies, but noted that the OPO committee felt it was important to move forward with this project and would continue to work with CMS to get the policies aligned. He explained, however, that the current system is an arcane system that requires a procurement team to carry a printer with them and then spend hours printing out multiple forms. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that this proposal proceed to public comment.
- **Proposal to Increase Committee Terms to Three Years (POC)**
This proposal had one “no” vote. The Chair explained that this proposal enables committees to retain important historical knowledge and complete large projects more easily. It also has the added bonus of decreasing the amount of time the OPTN spends orienting new members. The committee voted unanimously to

recommend to the Executive Committee that this proposal proceed to public comment.

The committee took a final vote on a blanket recommendation to the Executive Committee to approve all 12 proposals for public comment; the vote was unanimous.

Other Significant Items

3. Conference call scheduling – poll

The committee took a poll to determine the best day and time for future conference calls. Thursdays at 4 pm EST won the poll. The liaison reported that she will set up all the future conference calls for the year based on this poll and send the registration links and dates to the committee.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 10, 2015, Conference Call, 3:00 PM EST
- September 28-29, 2015, In-person Meeting, Chicago, IL
- October 8, 2015, Conference Call, 12:00 PM EST
- November 12, 2015, Conference Call, 4:00 PM EST
- December 10, 2015, Conference Call, 12:00 PM EST